During the current year *i.e.* 2006-07 up to 31st October, 2006, 1793km of length of National Highway is improved/constructed under various National Highways schemes.

(b) Total amount spent for development & maintenance of National Highway during the same period up to 31st October, 2006 is Rs. 4347.88 Crore.

(c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. National Highways are being kept in traffic-worthy condition within available resources. The State Government concerned is responsible for upkeep of the roads other than National Highway.

(d) National Highways are passing through all the States of the country and connecting all the State's capitals and other important cities/towns.

Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

2533. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy traffic on NH-8 between Delhi and Jaipur, there is an urgent need to construct Expressway Delhi-Jaipur;

(b) whether the Union Finance Minister has declared construction of Expressway Delhi-Jaipur in his budget-speech 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the present status of this Express Highway Project indicating whether it has been included under NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The Union Finance Minister in his budget speech announced that the Government has decided to develop 1000 Km. of access controlled Expressways. The section of Delhi-Jaipur was included in his budget speech. Government has also approved construction of 1,000 Km. of Expressways at a cost of Rs. 16,680 crore on 2nd November, 2006 under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI.

In the first stage, 400 Km. Expressway between Vadodara and Mumbai has been taken up for feasibility study. The remaining 600 Km. will be selected out of other high density corridors *i.e.* Delhi-Chandigarh (249 Km.) on NH-1 and NH-22, Bangalore-(Chennai (334 Km.) on NH-4, Delhi-Jaipur (261 Km.) on NH-8, Delhi-Meerut (66 Km.) on NH-58, Kolkata-Dhanbad (277 Km.) on NH-2 and Delhi-Agra (200 Km.) on NH-2, based on the prioritisation study being taken up by National Highways Authority of India.

Trans-shipment terminal at Vizhinjam

2534. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether security clearance has been given to the proposed international container trans-shipment terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government of India has decided not to grant security clearance to the bidder proposed by the Government of Kerala for undertaking the project for the development of Deep Water International Container Trans-shipment Terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala. It will not be in public interest to disclose further details.

Road projects in Jharkhand

2535. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of road projects under various programmes that had been under implementation in the State of Jharkhand as on 1st April, 2004;

(b) the details of projects executed out of the same till 31st October, 2006;